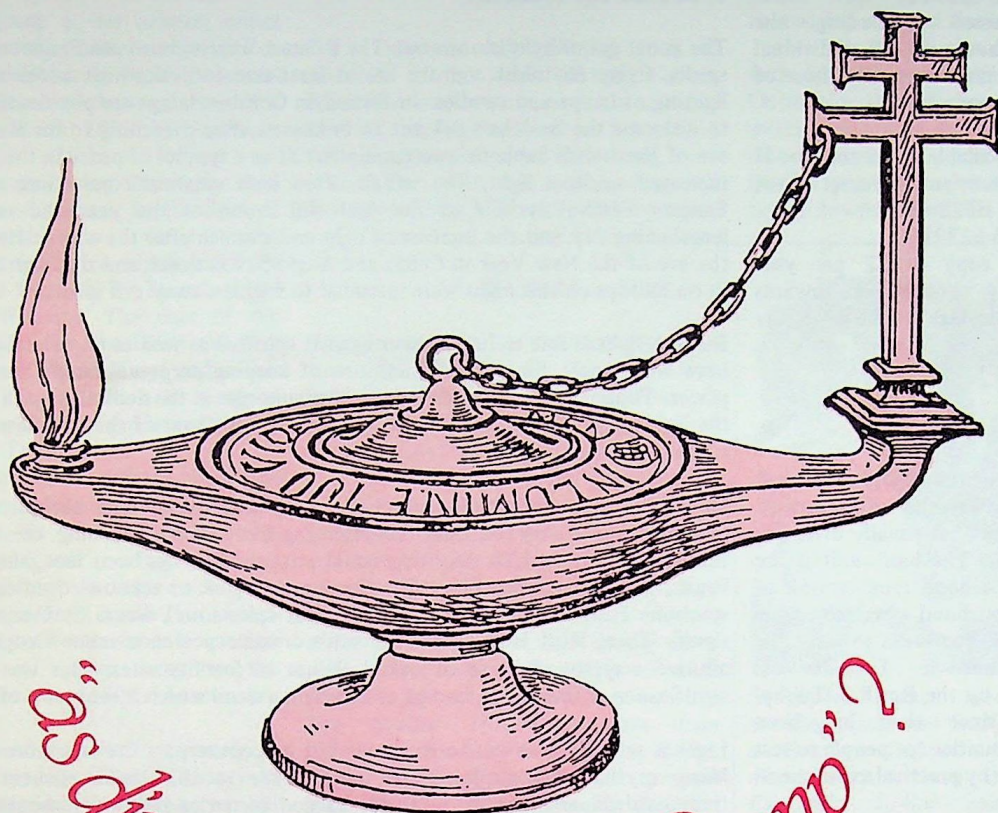


Point Three

December
1987 20p



"as dim as a ToC H Lamp"?



Point Three

Editor: Judith Rice

Editorial Assistant: Barbara Martin

Designer: Sybil A Chick

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911)

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Toc H is a Movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P B 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

Cover Picture

The Lamp of Maintenance – from the 'Toc H Journal' October 1922. See 'The Lamp and its Ceremonies', pp 6–7

Light

Our ancestors had only candles or firelight to keep at bay the outer darkness. They lived in a world of light and shadow: their living flames made the shadows dance. Even the sun was swallowed up each night, and the flames Man substituted for it were flimsy, all too easily snuffed out. But in our 100 watt world illumination has become universal and has lost its power. So we seek to recapture something which we dimly perceive we have lost, in candlelit dinners and pub fires; or in religious ceremony.

Even in their electrically lit churches, Roman Catholics still use symbolic light. On the Candlemas Day, when the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is celebrated, all the candles which will be needed in the church throughout the year are consecrated. They symbolise Christ, who is called 'the light of the world' and 'a light to lighten the Gentiles'. And so too, on Easter Day, a large paschal candle is carried through the church to represent the light of the newly resurrected Christ, driving away the powers of darkness and of death.

The ritual use of light is universal. The Romans used to burn candles to scare away evil spirits. Every Buddhist country has at least one festival which is celebrated by the lighting of lamps and candles. In Burma, in October, lamps are put almost everywhere to welcome the Buddha's descent from heaven after preaching to his mother. On the eve of the Jewish Sabbath, two candles are lit as a symbol of peace in the house and of increased spiritual light. The rituals often have seasonal connections. The Chinese Lantern Festival is held at the first full moon of the year and celebrates the lengthening day and the increase of light and warmth after the winter. Hallowe'en was the eve of the New Year in Celtic and Anglo-Saxon times, and the huge bonfires they lit on hilltops on this night were intended to frighten away evil spirits.

Because light is felt to have power against spiritual as well as physical darkness, there have from early times been traditions of keeping perpetual lamps burning in holy places. Today still, one of the principal ceremonies at the dedication of a synagogue is the lighting of such a lamp, which is suspended in front of the Ark in which lies the scroll of the Law.

Many religions and philosophies have divided the world abruptly into Light (representing Good) and Dark (representing Evil). The quickening, creative power of the sun, without which no thing could stir into life, has been recognised since time began. It has been worshipped as the supreme god, or acknowledged as the greatest symbol. 'Fair is he and radiant with great splendour', wrote St Francis, 'He doth signify Thee, Most High'. And the sun's creative power is acknowledged in a more allusive way, by the use of naked flames in fertility rites. This was the original significance of the Hindu festival of Dipavali, a word which means 'row of lights'.

Light is scarcely ever felt to threaten; but its counterpart fire is a more fickle friend. Many mythologies display some ambivalence to this rogue element – like the traditional Japanese, who propitiate its god by twice-yearly ceremonies. St Francis was unusual in revelling in its fearsome power: 'Praised be Thou, my Lord, for Brother Fire which illumines the night; and he is fair, jocund and most robust and strong'. Lanterns are potent symbols because they represent fire tamed.

The rhythms of nature; the power and threat of darkness and of fire – all this can explain the hold of light as a religious symbol. But perhaps there is more. Mystics around the world seem unable to express some of their experiences other than in the language of light and flame. They talk of 'being on fire', of 'seeing a great light'. Eskimo Shamans and traditional Australian medicine-men attribute their clairvoyance to a sudden mysterious light inside their body. More remarkable still, there are stories of mystics who are perceived by others to be bathed in light – the Transfiguration of Christ is one such story.

Knowing this, the traditional Roman Catholic ceremony of excommunication seems even more awesome in its implications. The sentence is pronounced; then the priest closes his book, quenches the candle by throwing it to the ground, and finally tolls the bell, as if somebody has died. The book symbolises the book of life; the candle is the soul that has been removed from the sight of God.

The blazing sun and flickering flame symbolise goodness and spiritual strength the world over. They do so because they represent basic human needs. But also because they are alive and vigorous and throw out shifting shadows. If we block out the darkness that is hovering at its edge, we fail to see the living light.

Branch News

Celebration in East Sussex

Tuesday 8 September was a very special occasion for the Seaford Joint Branch. Neighbouring Branches and local friends of Toc H had been invited to share in the Rededication Service to mark the 50th Anniversary of the presentation of its Lamp to the original Seaford Men's Branch.

The Lamp is, we believe, rather special. According to its inscription it is the War Widows' Lamp, and is in special memory of Beatrix Johnson. It was first ceremonially lit in 1937 by Viscount Halifax.

It was gratifying that more than 100 people were present in the Seaford Parish Church to attend the Commemorative Service which had been designed, and was led, by Branch Padre Canon Rex Williams. The date of the Service was also the Church's Feast Day for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and in his address Rex drew attention to many of her qualities which can guide and inspire our efforts in Toc H.

Few of those present were not moved – and indeed inspired – by the Service with its thoughtfully chosen prayers, hymns and readings, and of course the address, as they made their way to the adjoining Church Hall, where a wide variety of refreshments awaited them. Pride of place went to the beautifully decorated 50th Anniversary cake.

It was an occasion not merely to reflect on 50 years of Toc H history in our pleasant seaside town, but to remind ourselves of the challenges that still lie ahead of us.

RR



The Conga!

Bangers!

On a glorious July evening over 40 members of the Adult Training Centre, Bletchley, were entertained at a barbecue held at the Pegasus Venture Scout Unit Camping Site, Cosgrove, Wolverton.

The event was organised by the Wolverton Men's Branch who provided

the food. The Venture Scouts set up and cooked the food. Music was provided by Tommy Clarridge on his electric organ for games and dancing and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The Branch also took to the road with 13 cars on the Annual Toc H Car Outing for the elderly and disabled. The weather was kind and after an enjoyable ride through the countryside Kempston Branch provided a lovely tea. It was a happy day to remember.

A Record?

Dorothy Rollings has written to tell us of the celebrations held for the 37th birthday of the Higham Ferrers Women's Branch at a District Guest Night, with over 70 members and friends of Toc H. *'Our speaker was Adrian Dudman. He gave us a great talk to boost out Toc H spirit. This was followed by eats and chat and a barn dance thoroughly enjoyed by all ages. Our 37 years have been full of service, friendship and fun and on reflection we realise that during these years, six of our members have served as Mayoress of our Borough. They were the late Eveline Felce, the late Joan Oberman, Freda Wilson, Joyce Bailey, Elizabeth Booth and our present Mayoress Sue Moore. The last four are still active members. Can this be a record?'*



Southport Branch recently presented cooking equipment and games to a ward at Ormskirk Hospital, where one of their members had been a patient. Miss Elizabeth Taylor and Mrs Moira Simmonds are seen presenting the games to the Nurse in Charge.



The Lamp shines brightly in the Seaford Parish Church as members and friends celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its first lighting.



The two gentlemen seen here are Len Beddow (Wem Branch) and Jack Wickstead (Edgmond Branch). They presented an adjustable bed to The League of Friends of Shrewsbury Hospitals, and are pictured along with other representatives of other bodies who did the same. Sister Anne Holmes (second from the Right) gave a brief talk on the advantages of these new beds.

HYPOTHERMIA

Phil Walker

Every winter we read in our papers and hear on the television about old people dying of hypothermia — in plainer language, freezing to death. John Morgan, of the South Eastern Region, was prompted to ask if there was anything Toc H could do, and I, as an LTV, was briefed to 'Examine the problem of Hypothermia, seeking ways to alleviate it, increase awareness and give information'.

I soon discovered that the main problem in researching hypothermia is that despite the numerous sources of information — pamphlets, books, medical journals, information packs — it is unexpectedly difficult to give exact figures of deaths due to hypothermia. Official figures put the number at hundreds; the unofficial figures at thousands. This discrepancy is due mainly to the ways the different organisations (Statutory and Voluntary) interpret the statistics. Hypothermia is not only a killer in itself but can also be a contributory factor in illnesses such as pneumonia, and whereas Voluntary organisations usually take such deaths into account when compiling their statistics, Statutory bodies generally include only deaths directly attributable to hypothermia. This often means that while the Statutory bodies appear to present a clear-cut and 'objective' picture, the Voluntary sector is generally believed to be exaggerating because of excessive emotional involvement.

Hypothermia is now seen as a social as well as a medical problem. A large number of deaths is followed by a great public outcry that we are neglecting our elderly. The media ask 'How can it

happen? Who is to blame?' but whoever accepts responsibility runs the risk of also becoming a scapegoat. Because of this desire to blame, it is not unknown for GPs to refuse to enter hypothermia on the death certificate.

It is neglect which leads to a lonely death from hypothermia; but neglect in a variety of forms. First, houses are often old and in poor condition. Even houses built only 15–20 years ago are rarely provided with such things as insulation and draught-proofing. Although new buildings usually include these features, the vast majority of housing is of the older type. Because of this, we have a worse record on deaths from hypothermia than other countries with similar winter temperatures.

Finance is not readily available to all who need it for the modernisation of their homes. There are various benefits to help with heating costs, for which many people are eligible, but the present system for additional, emergency financial help is, to me, beyond belief. £5 will be given to assist with the fuel bill, if the temperature is at or below 0°C for a seven day period, which has to begin on a Monday and end on the following Sunday. I had not realised the British weather was so precise . . . And, even then, not everyone is entitled to this payment — there are other conditions to be met!

Finally, there is the problem of education, of helping people become aware of their entitlements. How do you persuade a 75 year old widow to forgoe

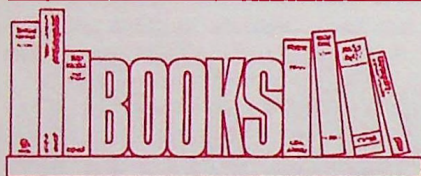
what she sees as her pride or her traditional family values? How do you persuade her that this 'charity' which she and her husband said they would never live on is, in fact, something to which they have contributed over many years?

So, to return to the initial question, what can Toc H do to help? — that is apart from spending vast amounts of money producing material already available or creating a new political party? We can help through 'educating' those in need. We can help by placing simple but clear posters or leaflets in prominent places. We can help through personal contact, explaining the various benefits available to those in need. My own preference is for direct personal contact: it's what makes us different from many other 'Charities'.

Here then are some practical suggestions about how to avoid hypothermia and some Do's and Don'ts should you come across a sufferer:

How to avoid Hypothermia

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Food | Eat at least one hot meal, and drink at least two hot drinks a day. |
| Heating | Keep at least one room heated, and if possible, sleep in it too. |
| Clothing | Wear loose-fitting, woollen clothes (more loose-fitting clothing is better than one large article). Keep a woolly hat on, even indoors, as well as socks and gloves. |
| Exercise | Get up and walk around your room at least twice a day, however painful it may be to do so. |
| Bedtime | Sleep in a warm room, in a warmed bed. Drink a hot drink in bed. |



The Caring Trap by Jenny Pulling Published by Fontana @ £2.95

'We are the women who are neither married nor on our own, single in a society which thinks of people in couples. If you are a carer, no one cares a damn.' This comment was made by Lydia, one of the many people interviewed by Jenny Pulling during the course of her research for this book. There are over 1¼ million informal carers in Great Britain today; a 'forgotten army' of women and men, tied by the bonds of family loyalty to looking after elderly or sick relatives. Some choose to do so, others have no option.

The book is written in journalistic style, hardly surprising since the author has previously written for a women's magazine. But she cannot be said to display journalistic detachment from her subject, which in this case is a good thing. Until recently, she herself was a carer attending to the needs of her dying mother. Therefore, Jenny Pulling speaks from experience and her work is made more valuable by the fact that she writes with the benefit of hindsight. Whilst not excessively long, the book covers every stage of the ageing process and sensitively describes the emotions experienced by the parties involved. Miss Pulling criticises society for its readiness to make assumptions about the abilities of old people. We automatically think of the elderly as inactive and immobile. She seeks to increase our understanding of old age and dismantles preconceived ideas of what it entails. She quotes Joan Lester,

MP for Eton and Slough, who criticises the attitudes of many of those who run residential homes: 'They presume an intellectual void, that old people don't read and want only light entertainment and crafts — their intellectual backgrounds are seldom taken on board by their carers.'

One gets the impression that Jenny Pulling is not a fan of the existing institutions. Her visit to a private home left her with the opinion that such places rob their inhabitants of 'the quality of life'.

The strength of this book lies in the fact that it looks at the problem from all perspectives. It contains interesting comparisons between Great Britain and our Western contemporaries vis a vis care of the elderly. And we are forced to conclude that Britain has a long way to

If you find someone you suspect is suffering from hypothermia:

Send for medical assistance, even if you are not sure – it's better to be safe than sorry.

Warm up the room, but do not direct heat at the person.

Warm up the person by covering with lightweight blankets or clothes.

(NB weight destroys the insulating property of the materials and prevents the flow of blood to the limbs).

If the person is fully conscious give warm (not hot) drinks.

Do not give alcohol.

Do not use hot water bottles or electric blankets.

Do not put the person in a hot bath.

Do not put the person near a fire or heater.

The above suggestions are taken from the many sources of information available. You may wish to use them in the form of posters or leaflets. These can be distributed in public places such as libraries, day centres, churches, doctors' surgeries, shop windows, CAB centres etc. Further information is available from the addresses given below, but I would like to draw your attention to one particular information pack, which should be purchased by all who wish to help. It's called 'Your Right to be Warm' and is available from the Health Education Council (see below), price £15. It is a large pack which gives facts and figures but, more importantly, it has facilities for the passing on of information and help to those who wish to make further advances in the fight against hypothermia.

I would like to finish on a note of warning. Hypothermia is a killer. It can affect anyone who is not careful. Anyone from the age of zero upward. Anyone: young, old; black, white; male, female.

go before it catches up with the likes of Denmark. There, the basic pension for a single person is approximately £250 a month, tax free. A Danish pensioner can afford to feed and clothe himself well. Meanwhile, home helps give their clients a full caring service beginning first thing in the morning and ending last thing at night. In Britain, the money to operate such a scheme is not available. Miss Pulling believes that society could do more to enable its elderly members to stay in their own surroundings. She describes the new initiatives which are being undertaken in various parts of the UK to make such hopes a reality.

Throughout the book, sound practical advice is given to those in a caring situation. She alerts the reader to the benefits they may be entitled to and who to go to for specialist help. In some ways, *The Caring Trap* presents itself as a



Photo: Fay Godwin Photo Files

Some useful addresses:

The Information Desk
Help The Aged
St James' Walk
London EC1R 0BE

Age Concern England
Bernard Sunley House
60 Pitcairn Road
Mitcham
Surrey CR4 3LL
Tel: 01 640 5431

There are other offices for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Phil Walker is a 29 year old ex-civil servant. Now an LTV in his second year, based in Thanet in SE Kent, he's moved from work with the elderly to a primary concern with establishing youth groups. Although he'd been a volunteer for 13 years before joining the staff, he says that the full-time commitment involved in being an LTV has deepened his understanding and appreciation of Toc H.

— Ed.

The Health Education Council
78 New Oxford Street
London WC1A 1AH

handbook for those having to cope with an ageing or infirm person. However, it is by no means clinical in its approach: it does not rustle with the dryness of a textbook. Miss Pulling has successfully combined the down-to-earth with the emotional.

Each chapter is littered with first hand experiences, both her own and those of other people. Isolation is the common enemy of all carers. They find themselves cut off from the rest of society, having little in common with their neighbours, many of whom are married with children. Coming to terms with the loneliness can be painfully difficult for both sides. Jenny Pulling believes that life for both the carer and the cared for could be made more tolerable if outsiders became more involved instead of avoiding them like the plague. People will take an interest but only up to a point. Usually they keep

their distance – after all it's not their problem; why should they get involved? But involvement is what Miss Pulling asks for: 'However dedicated they (the carers) are, most would agree that it would help if they could share their elderly charge with one or two friends'.

You don't have to be a carer to find Jenny Pulling's book of interest. Amongst the many messages held within its pages, is the strong conviction that society must change its current attitude towards the elderly. It is wrong to think of them as a social problem, a drain on national resources. The time has come for people to acknowledge the invaluable contribution they've made in days gone by. Society must now repay the debt and recognise that the elderly still have a place in the community today.

Sue Biggerstaff

starting point

Starting Point is a new occasional series which looks at how some familiar aspects of Toc H began and how they've changed . . . and which asks where they should go from here.

On December 11th, the World Chain of Light starts in South Africa. Judith Rice examines

The Lamp and its Ceremonies

'As dim as a Toc H Lamp' is a saying repeated with wearisome frequency by those who know nothing else about Toc H. It's a tribute to the power of this symbol of the Lamp, dreamt up in a stockbroker's waiting-room in 1922. But it's a sad comment when the image chosen by an organisation has lingered on in people's minds at the expense of the organisation itself.

And even within, where we all know what Toc H means and what it does, are we so sure of what the Lamp represents? For thousands of members its ceremonies provide a focus for the ideals and fellowship which they find in Toc H. For many more those same ceremonies are baffling and even unhelpful. If we want a united Movement we must look at how the symbolism started and ask if it still fulfils its purpose, for members and onlookers alike.

Beginnings

Barclay Baron put an idea to the membership in the *Journal* in June 1922. Toc H, he said, was a new brotherhood but one that would surely last. It needed some outer expression of its inner spirit — and he suggested a lamp. In form it would be simple but in symbolism complex: it would be a lamp of guidance, remembrance and festivity. It would indicate service, like the biblical lamps

which were trimmed and kept ready for use at all times, or like those which were not to be kept under a bushel. And, as in the tale of Aladdin, it would be a lamp of renewal — for by 'rubbing up the native lamp within us, polishing our wits, cleaning our imagination and our spirit of tarnish' we could provide 'better lamps to walk by than the duds which led the world astray'.

His suggestion was greeted enthusiastically by the membership, was approved by Central Council, and was quickly and fully taken up. The actual design was modelled on the ordinary lamps used by the early persecuted Christians in the Catacombs of Rome. The characteristic monogram XP (the Ch and R of the name of Christ in Greek letters) was, however, replaced by the double cross of Calvary. This formed part of the coat of arms of Ypres, and use of it had been granted to Talbot House during the First War. The new Toc H symbol was called the 'Lamp of Maintenance'.

Ceremony

The Lamp was not just a passive symbol. It was also intended to fulfil what was felt to be a universal need for 'ceremony'. It was believed that it would be disastrous if the Movement allowed this need for celebration and ritual to develop haphazardly: on the contrary, there

should be universally accepted forms of ceremony which could express outwardly the inner unity and spirit of Toc H. The Lamp would be used *actively* to bring members together.

Barclay Baron proposed that it be linked with the fairly widespread practice of keeping half a minute's silence at each meeting in remembrance of old friends 'left behind in the Salient and elsewhere'. From this and other suggestions emerged the Ceremony of Light. It has remained more or less unchanged to the present day.

Bestowal

The Lamp was also seen as a way of maintaining standards. The new bronze lamps were to be the corporate property of the Trustees on members' behalf. Their granting would be at the discretion of the Central Council, which could withdraw them as a disciplinary measure. The Lamp would only be bestowed on a duly constituted Branch whose record of work had been approved. Until such time, any new group had only a Rushlight. The seriousness of the whole business was confirmed by the fact that the Prince of Wales (then Patron of Toc H) would bestow the Lamps personally on delegates of a qualified Branch and would light them for the first time.

The first occasion when Lamps were bestowed on Branches was the Toc H birthday party at the Guildhall, London, on December 15th 1922. Some 2,000 people were present. The focal point of the celebrations was the moment when 'The Prince's Lamp' (the first one to be cast and the one which still stands, permanently lit, in All Hallows in London) was used by him to light, one by one, the Lamps of the first 40 Branches. When all had been lit, the chandeliers were dimmed. With the new Lamps glowing in the darkness the words of the Ceremony of Light were spoken for the first time. They were followed by the mournful sound of the Last Post and the stirring summons of the Reveille, a

In the 'Journal', October 1922, Branches were invited to prepare a Form of Petition for a lamp.

SUGGESTED FORM OF PETITION.

We commend and support this Petition.

Presidents :

Council :

. TOC H.
We, who are now members of Toc H in, earnestly desire that a Lamp of Maintenance be granted to our Brotherhood; which same Lamp we will maintain in all good faith and brotherly conduct; in service from the elder to the younger, from the hale to the sick, from the richer to the poorer, from the friendly to the lonely; remembering the lives that first fed the light.

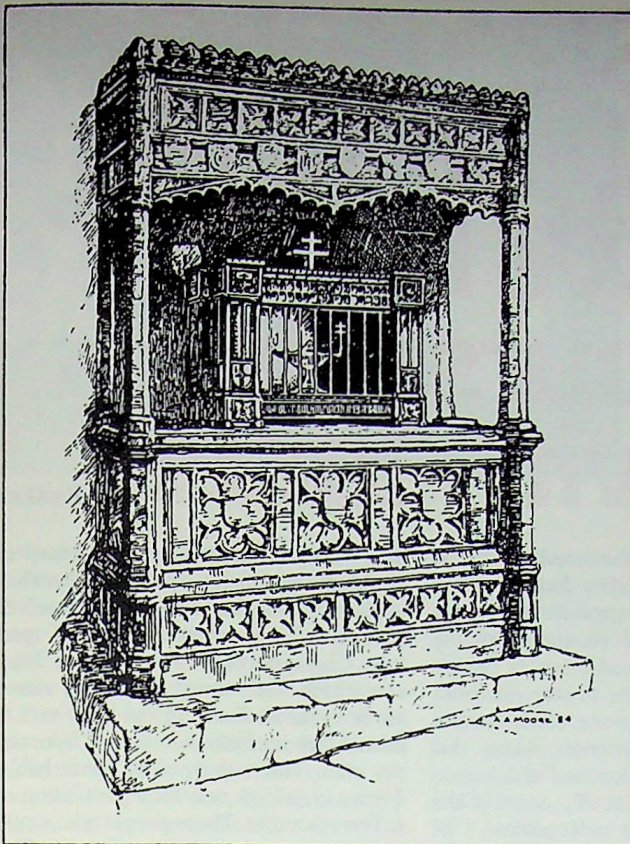
Members Members Members Members

This Petition was granted and the Lamp of Maintenance Bestowed and first lit by H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES, K.G., Patron of Toc H, at the Guildhall, London, on Dec. 15th, 1922.

Signed :

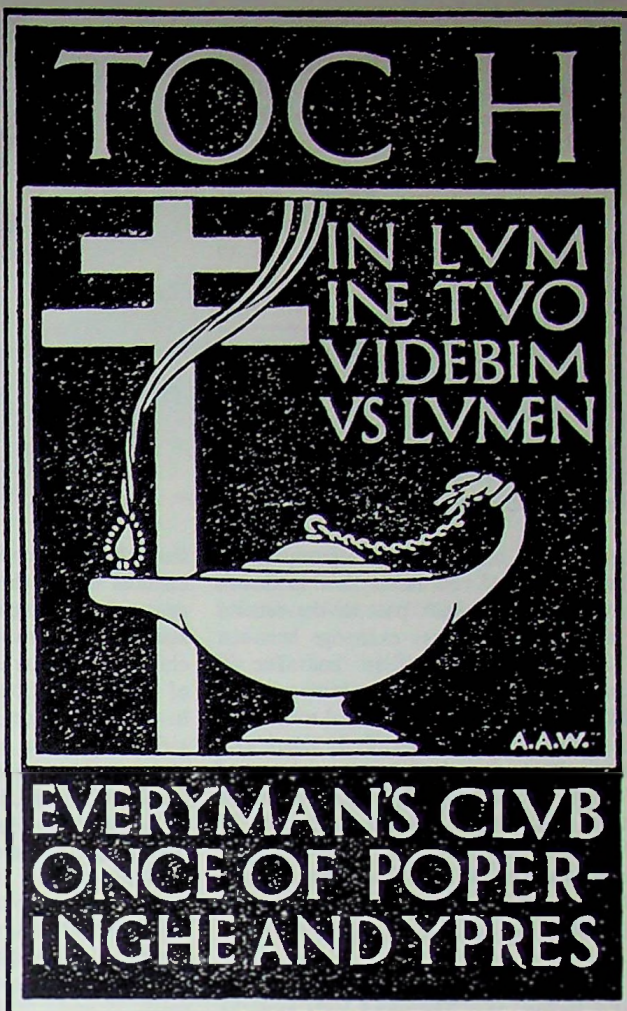
On behalf of the Trustees.

On behalf of the Central Council.



Above: The 'Prince's Lamp' in All Hallows – from 'The Birth of a Movement' by Barclay Baron.

Right: A design for a bookplate – the 'Journal', January 1923, ('In thy light shall we see light').



reminder of Toc H's origins in the First World War, and a salute to those who had fallen.

World Unity

One more stage was still to come in the development of light as the symbol of Toc H's ideals of Fellowship and Service. Members wanted a single annual birthday festival of the whole Movement – yet this was difficult to organise because it was becoming impossible to fit so many people into one venue. But in 1929, Toc H Australia found the answer. When it celebrated its third birthday in May with a festival in Perth, it was joined in spirit by Toc H Units and Branches around the World, which lit their Lamps and Rushlights to form a symbolic chain.

So successful was this first World Chain of Light that it was repeated and formalised the following year, this time starting on December 5th at the Old House in Poperinge, where the spirit it was celebrating had been born. To this day, each year at one selected place the Lamp is lit on December 11th at 9pm, and remains burning for 24 hours, while members keep a constant vigil. Branches and Groups worldwide join in by holding the Ceremony of Light at 9pm local time, and by reading a message from the centre

where the Chain started. So each year, the earth is encircled by a chain of thought and prayer, symbolised in the flickering lights of the Lamps of Maintenance.

This, then is how the symbol of the Lamp, the Ceremony of Light and the World Chain of Light came into being. In general they were widely supported, but there were always dissenting voices. As early as 1923, in an article in the *Journal* entitled 'Lampolatry' a member claimed that there was a growing feeling that the ceremonies of the Lamp were being unduly emphasised. He felt that the essence and the work of Toc H would be forgotten if this continued. '40 years on', he asked, 'will the Lamp mean what it means now?'

Today

Well, more than 50 years on, *does* the symbolism still work? Does it represent to those outside the Movement the ideals we stand for, and to those inside, the friendship which underpins those ideals?

Many younger members rarely, if ever, participate in a Ceremony of Light. For some of them, when they are eventually invited to do so, it seems an esoteric ritual divorced from *their* experience of

Toc H. They watch nervously, afraid that they will be asked to do something. Yet if they admit this, they risk being regarded as 'not really Toc H'. For, to their hosts, the Ceremony is second nature; it's become a cornerstone, a bond with their fellows and a symbol of their purpose. This division is a pity – more, an embarrassment. If these symbols are truly universal, such situations should never arise.

The symbolism we have is not, in itself 'right' or 'wrong'. But it is only worth having if it represents something which really exists. The Lamp and its ceremonies were introduced to express the underlying unity of Toc H. But do they still do this effectively now that so many in Toc H don't understand them? Perhaps this in itself indicates that Toc H is *disunited*.

Ours is a diverse Movement, and we should be proud of that fact. Our symbols should either be used more fully or they should be changed, so that they fully convey that unity in diversity both to ourselves and to the outside world. Otherwise 'As dim as a Toc H Lamp' will continue to be a cliché divorced from its origins. It will be a sad indictment of a Movement which has failed to live up to its chosen symbol.

This month, the annual World Chain of Light starts at Willow Grange. Headquarters of Toc H in South Africa. Peter Ranken, who twice participated in the South African Exchange, here writes about the main project undertaken by the volunteers from the UK in 1986.

It is not usual to write about a Toc H project for the first time over a year after it started, but this is one that is still having an effect today.

At the end of June 1986 a group of six English Toc H volunteers flew to South Africa as the British part of the second year of the volunteer exchange between Toc H United Kingdom and Toc H Southern Africa. The six volunteers were Stuart Wheeler, Demelza Lewis, Liz Jones, Rachael Lockey, Jerry Ham and Peter Ranken, and all had experience of Toc H projects in England. The aim of their visit was to work with Toc H Southern Africa in the further development of Toc H projects there, following the first visit of UK volunteers in 1985.

The 1985 volunteers had briefly visited the Valley of a Thousand Hills and the Valley Trust in Kwazulu/Natal and this formed the location of the main project that the 1986 volunteers worked on.

The Valley of a Thousand Hills is one of the Black 'homelands' of South Africa and is home to at least 80,000 people. As its name implies, it is an area of little flat land with many valleys and hills, and can only support a subsistence agriculture. However most work is in Durban, which is the largest port of South Africa and is over one and a half hours by road away. There are not enough jobs there so unemployment is a problem in the Valley. This, combined with the poor soil and an expanding population, means that there are many health problems.

The Valley Trust is a non-governmental organisation which works to promote health in the Valley by the prevention of disease. They work through education and the promotion of good nutrition, good water, and good sanitation, and they encourage local people to grow their own fresh fruit and vegetables.

An important part of this wide-ranging work is the involvement of 'Onompilo', or community health workers. These are women who have already raised their own children and who are respected in their home villages. They are trained in basic child and health care methods and can

'SIZAKELE NA TOCH' -We built it ourselves with Toc H

Peter Ranken

then help extend the service of the medical staff at the Valley Trust, for they can see more people, are more permanent and are used to the terrain. They use child growth charts, and promote the use of oral rehydration kits to stop diarrhoea in children, which is one of the largest killers in poor countries. They also encourage immunisation and the breast-feeding of babies. Unusually, some of the Onompilo are also 'Isangoma', or traditional medicine women.

Toc H has been involved with the Onompilo since 1965 when money raised during the Movement's 50th birthday was used to set up this scheme. By 1985 the work of some 200 to 250 Onompilo in the Valley had resulted in a great improvement in the health of the population, especially children.

It was then felt that the time for the next stage had begun. The Valley Trust headquarters and the clinic that serves the Valley are at Bothas Hill (on the border between South Africa and Kwazulu), a distance of 15 - 20km from the centre of the Valley and therefore a long way for people to walk if they are ill. A network of five community centres was planned, which were to act as First Aid Posts and Health Training Centres, in addition to being meeting places for the local people. This was obviously a large project for a small Toc H group to undertake and when Toc H Natal made its offer, the Valley Trust accepted in the spirit of 'If you're crazy enough to say yes, then we're not going to say no!'

So, in July and August 1986 the first centre was built at Mgoqosi in the centre of the Valley of the Thousand Hills, 17km along an awful dirt road from the Valley Trust headquarters, where the volunteers from outside the Valley were staying. Apart from the volunteers from Britain and the local Zulu people, there were other Black volunteers from Soweto, an Indian architecture student, two coloured school students and members of Hilary Toc H Branch.

The Valley Trust has a long history of working with the local people rather than applying solutions to dimly perceived problems from above. As their part towards supporting the project a local committee was formed and a levy raised on every adult living in the local area, a sum of two rand per woman and five rand per man. This was equal to about half a day's pay, a large sum for a population of so few resources. Those people who could not pay gave their labour instead. This money was used to provide lunch for the local workers and as a contribution towards furnishings in the completed building.

As can be seen from the photographs, the work of the local volunteers was divided along traditional social lines - the men did the heavy digging and building work whilst the women carried water and prepared the food, sitting beside the trench overlooking the river. Fortunately the women didn't have to carry all the water from the stream 1 km away, for one of the members of the local committee worked for the water board and often arrived with his yellow truck to fill up our oil drums.

The atmosphere on site was quite remarkable, with up to 50 people present - especially during the digging of the foundations and the building of the walls. The site is near the local shop, and when the day arrived for pensions to be issued an old man came by, dressed in his Sunday best - a three-piece suit, including waistcoat and tie. He saw what we were doing, removed his jacket and laid into the foundations with a pickaxe!

On another occasion the local dog inspector passed by. Hearing the joking and laughing on site he thought that we were just playing, but he looked again and saw that a lot of hard work was being done.

Hard work it certainly was. The site itself had no running water or electricity so all mortar and concrete had to be mixed by



Rachael, Linda and local girls carrying water.



Ambrose laying concrete.

hand and we had to excavate our own building sand. Because of the remoteness of the site, aggregate and building blocks from outside took some time and subterfuge to get to Mgoqosi. The lorries would be told to go to the Valley Trust (17km) away, with the message that the site was 2 – 3km further on and that a guide would show them the way. So the lorry would arrive later, having been told that it was 'just over the hill', 'round the next bend', 'not far now' for 12 or 13km! Had it been otherwise no one would have delivered because of the state of the roads, and the fear of some Indian or coloured truck drivers of travelling so

far into a 'homeland' where violence had been reported in the past. As for us from outside the Valley, we had no intimation or evidence of violence whilst we were there.

After five weeks, we had to leave Mgoqosi for the remaining part of the volunteer exchange in South Africa. In that time we had 90% completed a 12m x 7m (38' x 22') building that would be of great use to the local people, and in the process taught a lot of people how to build a large building to a standard at least comparable to that produced by a local commercial builder. Most importantly,

we had made friends in what felt like an apartheid-free area of South Africa, which we were sad to leave.

We returned briefly a couple of weeks later to hold a party with the children and adults who had worked on, and who would use, the building that by then had been named 'Sizakele na Toc H' – We built it ourselves, with Toc H.

Postscript:

One year later this First Aid Station and Community Centre is being used extensively by the local people and the Onompilo.



Digging foundations.



A group of Onompilo and children on the site during construction. The man on the Right is Chairman of the local committee.



Children singing during a party held at the end of the project.

Projects 1987

Part 2

Conservation with a Difference Tim Beckett

Four Toc H volunteers, two leaders and four teenage boys from Birmingham were the ingredients for a project which ran from 24 April to 1 May 1987, at Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire.



Clearing 'Old Man's Beard'.

The boys were all classed as having learning difficulties such as short attention spans or problems with reading, and this added to the challenge of supervising them in conservation work. The week's accommodation was a (simple but comfortable) rebuilt stable block. The main point of interest about it was the wiring — turn the wrong knob on the cooker at the wrong time and every light in the building would go off!



Volunteer and 'friend'.

The work was hard but enjoyable: clearing masses of tangled 'Old Man's Beard', digging up Elder shrubs and best of all, uprooting the roots of several tree stumps. Cathi says she's quite willing to show off her many cuts and bruises from the work to anyone interested!

Despite numerous plots to ambush different members of the party, resulting in several pitched water fights and the discovery that raw eggs have many uses in unarmed combat as well as cooking, the project formed the ten of us into quite a close-knit group. The boys showed real enthusiasm for most of the work; they also asked questions about Toc H, were interested in joining the Movement and were keen to come again in the future.

Congratulations to Myron and Cathi on successfully completing their first project as leaders, and to all those on it: Alan, Caddy, Michelle, Chris, Paul, Frank and Anthony.

Middle-Class Projects? Chris Williams

Why are most volunteers students or from middle-class backgrounds? Why do projects fail to attract the unemployed or shop floor workers?

These questions were asked after a playscheme held in Wednesfield; several months of discussions with young people provided some answers.

Manual workers just wished to relax and have fun during their annual leave, while the unemployed felt that if they were not good enough for paid work, why should they work for nothing?

We were convinced that once persuaded to do a project, their attitude would change. Out came the drawing board and a de luxe project was planned: we would spend nine days at Port Penrhyn, with three good meals a day and lots of fun. In return, volunteers would commit themselves to 20 hours of conservation work, plus household chores on a rota basis. Hand-picked leaders were briefed to bond them into a group and a member acting as a cook and administrator would accompany them. All volunteers would be recruited from Wednesfield and a follow-up programme was planned for their return.

Six months after our project, we have a group who meet regularly. They are keen and full of new ideas, which are already bearing fruit. Four of our original volunteers have moved on, but we have gained six new ones. We have 16 members and average 12 a meeting.

A bonus is that four parents of group members have shown an interest in Wednesfield Branch and have attended several meetings. The Group are also joining in with social events in the District. They are keen to help with development and have several projects planned to this end.

If enough interest is shown in this idea for development, a national training weekend could be arranged. If you are interested, please write to:

Mrs Chris Williams
82 Woden Avenue
Wednesfield
Wolverhampton WV11 1PW
Tel: 0902 730482

'A few nasty moments when paint went on the carpet . . . !'

The South Wales Valley Community Project tackled overgrown gardens and interior decorating.

Treforest Branches would like to thank all the volunteers.



International Youth Weekend

Sue Biggerstaff

My first visit to Poperinge was in 1979 when I was 14 years old and more interested in looking around shops for souvenirs, than in walking around cemeteries pondering the atrocities of the First and Second World Wars. The chance for a second visit came in the September of this year, when the Old House played host to an International Youth Weekend. I was one of 18 people from Great Britain, most of whom already knew each other through Toc H projects. We were joined by seven members of the Poperinge youth group – this was the 'international' element.

The original idea had been to bring together volunteers from several nations, giving them the opportunity to 'share their cultural differences'. Unfortunately there were hardly any overseas applicants, so the British contingent was in the majority; furthermore, whilst the Belgians were with us during the day, they had to return to their family homes at night. Apparently this was due to an undercurrent of bad feeling amongst the local community at that time towards the visiting groups. Prior to our weekend, a couple of groups staying in the House had provoked complaints about the noise level, and it seems that some locals concluded that the people from England were only there for the beer. Perhaps they are overreacting, or perhaps they are failing to recognise that families in Great Britain allow a greater degree of independence than their Belgian counterparts? Nevertheless, groups visiting Poperinge in the future would do well to tread carefully.

The second purpose behind the weekend



The four stone figures which look out across Langemark German Cemetery.

was to allow us to explore the 'diverse facets of the Movement'. As it was, the amount of travelling involved only gave us a day and a half in which to see something of Belgium. The itinerary for Saturday included visits to Tyne Cot cemetery, some recently discovered underground passages where men received medical treatment, Hill 62 and the Menin Gate. We also attended a civic reception at Zonnebeke Town Hall. In his welcoming address, the Mayor referred to the senselessness of the Great War and the important role young people have in contributing to world peace. After presenting a glass plaque to Helen Ellison (who led the weekend with Gareth Roberts) we all joined together in a drink 'for freedom and for peace'.

By the time Saturday evening arrived, everybody was suffering from coachlag. It was quite ironic that our driver, Ron, had been taken on holiday by Toc H when he was just 13. He had never forgotten it and was now pleased to be doing something in return. He really enjoyed the weekend and said how much he'd learnt from it.

The chance to talk about the things we had seen came on the Sunday morning. It was obvious that whilst there had been a lot of fun and frivolity, the places we'd visited had had an effect on everybody.

The brightly coloured roses framing white headstones; the stark, disturbing images recorded on photographic plates at Hill 62; the claustrophobic nature of the underground tunnels; the eeriness of Langemark; the sheer size of the Pool of Peace; the flatness of the countryside, broken by small, carefully tended graveyards. And we asked, 'Is it healthy for the past to be made such a prominent part of the present?' Tine and Karine, both members of the Poperinge group, explained how the Wars are still topics of everyday conversation in their homes. For the Belgian People the events of 1914 – 18 and 1939 – 45 are not part of the dim and distant past, as there are still so many reminders of the suffering involved. We in Great Britain have war memorials; the Continent is littered with graves.

Despite the shortness of our stay in the Old House, the weekend was very worthwhile. New friendships were made and old ones were strengthened. Our tour of the various sites was mind-blowing to say the least. If the same event is to be organised for 1988, it would be better over a Bank Holiday weekend. Most of those who went this year would have appreciated more time to take it all in and reflect quietly on what they had seen.

Off to the Hills Again

Louisa Parish

Take ten children from Birmingham, all who have a handicapped brother or sister. Seven volunteers, including two from Germany, not forgetting Matthew, the four month old baby of our Project Leader. Add the setting of Weirside. Include fun and enthusiasm. Mix together and you have 'Off to the Hills' a Project organised by West Midlands and South Wales.

Although the weather was unpredictable nothing could dampen anybody's spirits. During the week most had their first experience of horse-riding, trekking in the

beautiful setting of Ullswater. Everyone managed to stay in the saddle, although one or two were a little sore after the ride.

One of the most popular trips from last year proved just as popular this time – a day at Lowther Adventure Park. Children and volunteers alike spent many happy hours on the boats, swings, trains, slides, inflatables, skates and BMX bikes.

On Friday we were able to do two extremely wet outdoor activities – under expert tuition, of course. The first was

gill scrambling, exploring the area around a river bank. This was wet, but canoeing proved even wetter! Everyone, except one volunteer, ended up in Lake Windermere, and surfaced looking very wet and soggy. Both activities found the children cautious at first, but after ten minutes all fear seemed to have gone and all were tackling the activities with gusto. Wet but happy, we travelled back to Weirside, where we all helped Clare with her 8th Birthday tea.

Every day of 'Off to the Hills' holds a special memory. That this is so is due to both volunteers and children alike, who contributed to making this a very special Project.



Bridlington Toc H Action Group organised a project based at Colsterdale. Volunteers went off on a variety of trips with children from Scarborough who suffered from mental handicaps. The day out to Lightwater Valley was a great success . . .



Photo: Don Woolley

Donna and Ellen found they shared a birthday during the **SE Kent Children's Holiday** – which was in its 16th year.

Deck Chairs and Guide Dogs

Christopher Pearce

From Yorkshire to London, from Bristol to Shropshire, we all arrived on that Saturday worn, weary and tired, to find a maths equation of enormous proportions – four beds plus one cot divided by seven volunteers = three uncomfortable bodies! We survived however, and the next day got down to business – we met the local Toc H representative, John Crocker, and the people with whom we were to work, who suffered from visual handicaps.

The week then took off into a swirling haze of striped deck chairs, berserk guide dogs, countless cups of tea and ice creams by the dozen, as we moved on from expedition to expedition. This is where, I am afraid, my selective memory cuts in. I remember the organs at Paul Corin's Music Centre; all shapes, colours, sizes and sounds with the floor vibrating to the rhythm and Emily singing quietly alone. I remember travelling in the minibus holding the seat tightly, trying to sing along to songs from a past age that I had never heard before, watching Milly beat Marion with her white stick if she didn't sing loudly enough. I also remember struggling through crowds whilst Bert moved effortlessly, with Penny guiding him, white stick scything a clear path.



Then I recall Laura rushing from side to side of the boat we took to Truro, pointing out where she had fished and walked 60 years ago. I remember the darkness at Trelissick, and the smoke from the footlights as kamikaze moths and insects flew into them. I also remember being guided into the sea, wondering how waterproof my trainers really were! I remember drinking champagne and eating baked beans as I celebrated my A level results. I remember David's face and the noises of the fruit machine as he won £15. Finally I remember our last day with our friends

from Falmouth: fighting our way up a forest path to find the fairy-tale church at St Just in Roseland. I remember swapping addresses, and long sad goodbyes.

As a group, we worked well together, and the people we worked with seemed to enjoy themselves. I was impressed by Toc H activities and achievements in Falmouth. And just to end, I'd like to thank everybody who helped our project succeed.

New Members

The following new members were registered during September / October.

Kate Mott (Birmingham Interact J Grp), David W Webb (Buckingham M), Rev Hugh A Searle (Cambridge J), Albert G F Worth (Crewkerne J), Gwyn Jones (Griffithstown M), George W Brown, Mrs Elizabeth J Hamilton, Mrs Ethel Short (Saltburn J Grp), Robert L & Mrs Mavis P Doyle (Somerton J), M/s Mary L Wallace (Wem J).

Welcome to 11 new members.

Toc H and Mental Health

I would like to hear from anybody who has had any dealings with mental illness / mental health under the umbrella of Toc H. I need brief details of what you did, where and when. Was it a one-off or an ongoing project?

Please include details of any problems that were encountered.

The information is for use in a project that I am doing towards my RMN examination.

If you can help or have any other queries, please contact me direct:

Ira Roberts
69 Crowthorp Road
Rectory Farm
Northampton NN3 5EY
Tel: 0604 406332

Open Forum

We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters with full name and address will be considered for publication.



Poppy Day

I wonder if you would kindly, by means of this letter or otherwise, publish a correction to a mistake which occurs in your article 'Poppy Day' in the November issue of Point Three.

The sale of white poppies was organised last year *not* by CND but by the *Peace Pledge Union*.

John Kilburn
Dunsmore

Note: I apologise to both organisations for this mistake. — Ed

Poperinge

I returned a fortnight ago from a very interesting and informative trip to Poperinge, which covered a long weekend, led by Rev Alan Johnson. We were a party of ten altogether. It was certainly a great experience to stay in the town itself, and attend a service at St George's Church on the Sunday evening.

An interesting look around Brugge was another of the highlights. Most important of all was the true companionship between one another. We appreciated the welcome on arrival by Jacques, the Warden, and meeting members of the local Branch.

The quiet times in the Upper Room (where Alan celebrated Holy Communion, and on one occasion the eldest member took light) were, I felt, a way of looking back at what we had seen around the Salient. Then just before departure Norah, being the youngest, took light — which surely was looking to the future as both she and Paul will be working in the North Wales and North Western Region in due course. This was truly an unforgettable experience, making one regret not having gone there previously.

Many thanks again to Alan for such a very glorious occasion.

Derek Smith
Hayes

Aids

At last I have time to respond to the letter in October Point Three from J A G Lawrence of Birmingham.

AIDS is established in the heterosexual population too.

We are pledged to think fairly and to offer caring love to, among others, the haemophiliacs who have been infected by treatment with the contaminated, imported blood clotting factor, and to the wives and children who have been infected with AIDS by thoughtlessness and ignorance.

Whatever we think of homosexual practises it is not our place to judge.

A call to repentance is praiseworthy but we have promised to go further.

How are we going about helping and comforting sufferers and their families?

Are we speaking out against the witch-hunters? Are we prepared to help with home care? How is Toc H meeting this challenge to follow the Four Points of the Compass?

Anne Evans
Cuddesdon

Farewell

to David Owen, who retired in September after five years as Headquarters Administrator. We were sorry to see him go and wish him well in his retirement.



David Owen unwraps a hint on how to spend his retirement.

Welcome

to Philip Jones who has stepped into David's shoes as HQ Administrator. He's a Welshman who's spent 25 years living in a rather hotter climate — he worked for Barclays Bank in Libya, the Bahamas, Zambia and Bahrain before heading home for an early retirement. After a year of this he got bored and took on this new job, partly because it was so different from anything he'd done before. He's new to Toc H, although he knew a bit about it; he's enthusiastic about some of the new developments his arrival has coincided with. But his greatest enthusiasm . . . is Rugby!



Phil Jones contemplates his new job.

1988 Diaries

These are available at the same price as last year, £1 each including postage. Once again it is a slim-line version, with Sunday start, and containing the usual essential Toc H information and addresses. Colour grey.

Please order from:

Toc H Publications Department
1 Forest Close
Wendover
Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 6BT

Please make cheques payable to 'Toc H'.

Meanwhile, we are already thinking about the diary for 1990. To coincide with the 75th birthday of Toc H, the Definitions Panel would like to print a new description of what the Movement is and what it stands for. It will replace the existing one on Page 2 of the diary, after agreement by the CEC. If you would like to write such a definition (between 250 and 500 words), please send it to the Editor. We cannot promise to use your version, but we would like a variety from which to choose.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the deaths of the following members:

In August

Francis Harmer (Felpham)

In September

A Lewis Bicknell (Stourbridge)
Judy C Cubitt (Darlington Central)
H Percy Freeman (Llanarmon-yn-Ial)
Oliver R Gunning (Mold District)
Nancy Laundon (Netherall)
Harry T B Leach (Northampton)
John Suckling (New Milton)

In October

Fred P Bailey (Bideford)
Irene GM 'Lockie' Lockwood (Leicester)
William A Noble (Maidstone Swan)
J Stephen Stapling (Stamford)

Our sympathies are extended to Toc H South Africa, who lost their President, Dennis Etheredge, on 31 October. An obituary notice will follow in due course.

Enfield Women's Branch regrets to announce the death of Miss Elsie Hornsby on 8 August. Elsie joined the Branch in 1949 on her return from service in the Wrens. She was a dedicated member and at the beginning of her illness when she had a stroke she was Branch Chairman. She kept up her interest and membership during the last two years although in hospital for much of that time. She will be missed.

DD

It is with deep regret that Conwy Branch report the unexpected death of David Barry Johns of Colwyn Bay on 16th August 1987. Barry was a long-standing and enthusiastic member of Conwy Branch and was always willing to take a share in any jobs of service undertaken by the Branch. He was also a representative of the Branch on the Conwy Valley District Team. He will be remembered not only by the local Branches of Toc H but by many other charitable organisations for which he collected almost £900 over the years. At a service held in St Paul's Church, Colwyn Bay the Vicar spoke of his dedication to the aims and objects of the Toc H Movement.

RP

Frank Allcroft, a much loved and valued member of Corsham Men's Branch, passed away on Sunday 13 September 1987, aged 93 years. In a long and eventful life, Frank had seen active service in the 1914 - 1918 War, when he first met Toc H, at Poperinge. He had been a Methodist Local Preacher, and devout Christian, and was an inspiration to those who knew him. Active in our Branch until recently, he will be sadly missed.

AJM

Toc H in North Wales and the North Western Region has been saddened by the sudden death of Percy Freeman at the age of 78. Although ill for many months he still maintained links with District, Area and Region after the closure of the Mold office in 1982. During a long membership, Percy held Toc H office at all levels and was known for his attention to detail and dedication to whatever job he undertook for the Movement.

He was still the driving force behind the Hill Skills project (the only surviving North Wales project in the National Booklet) at Llanarmon-yr-Ial, and took great care to pass on to others his love for project work in Toc H, and his appreciation of its importance.

Percy took the Third Point seriously and was always a wonderful controversialist. He infuriated some who misunderstood him, he strongly motivated others. He expected to be loved no matter how heated a topic became, and expressed in his care for people something of the Toc H way of loving others despite themselves.

Volunteers from around Britain will miss his willingness to share in their tasks and the interest he always took in new ideas and plans for their lives. He never failed to correspond with all of them, and he had a grasp of the importance of youth in Toc H far deeper than that of most other people I have met.

The Movement has lost a cornerstone of Branch life but one who has, in the shaping of young lives, left for others far more than he himself would ever admit.

HG

Leonard M (Pop) Baldwin, MM, was a member of Gorleston Branch for almost 40 years. He endeared himself to all by his cheerful nature and ready wit, and became a very loyal and active member. His popularity extended beyond Branch life into District and Area. Widely travelled, he was a regular visitor to Poperinge, and had many varied interests.

In the First World War he was awarded the Military Medal for an act of gallantry. He recently appeared on TV in the series 'Highway' with Sir Harry Secombe.

Pop retained all his faculties until the end of his 98 years. He leaves very many friends, and will be greatly missed but never forgotten. It's a pleasure to have known him.

CAB

William Alfred Noble (Bill), died in September, aged 81, after several years of failing health. Bill came from Great Chart in Kent, where he had the General Store and Post Office. He was a member of Kennington (Ashford) Branch and later of Maidstone / Swan Branch. He played an active part in the Toc H Swan Group Project in Maidstone which ran a Coffee Bar for the unemployed. He was a keen cyclist, loved cricket and composed poetry in his spare time. One poem, entitled "Think about it" was fittingly read at his funeral.

MBP

The Mold District mourn the loss of Norman Bithell, former Treasurer of the Wrexham Toc H Joint Branch, and Assistant Jobmaster. Norman died suddenly at his home in Wrexham only a few days after returning from holiday.

IWR

Editor's Note:

Due to pressure of space, the Editor usually has to reduce the length of tributes sent in - and will continue to do so unless the author specifically requests 'All or nothing'!

Irene Grace Myhill Lockwood (Lockie), of Glen Parva, who died in October, was a native of Norfolk of which she was inordinately proud.

Throughout her career as a teacher and Headmistress she was much loved and respected by her colleagues. A lifelong involvement with Toc H included membership of the Leicester and Glen Parva Women's Branches. For many years she visited patients at the Towers Hospital and helped with the running of the Leicester Men's Toc H Lunch Club. She served on the Central Council of Toc H and also represented Toc H on the Standing Conference of Women's Organisations where her humour, forthrightness and lively comments were leaven to meetings. She also had a special love and care for animals. She will be sadly missed.

SMH

Arthur Lewis Bicknell, aged 75, died on 11 September, following a painful illness very bravely borne. He joined Toc H in his home town of Bearwood, Birmingham, in 1930, and later transferred to Stourbridge (Men) and eventually to Stourbridge Joint Branch.

He married Ida Cook, a staunch member of Lye Women's Branch.

He was always a keen member, understanding the true purposes of our Movement. He was the first to spring to action at the call of any challenge to service.

CPD

It is with deep regret that Newsome Branch reports the death of John Shaw, a founder member of their Branch in 1950, and previously a member of the Paddock Branch. He had held every office in the Branch and did numerous jobs in the community. For years he was a prison visitor. Every week he visited the local old people's home and played the piano for the evening service. He was a sidesman at Newsome Church and took a firm interest in everything that happened in the parish. He will be sadly missed.

KA

Oliver Gunning, former member of the now defunct Hope and Caergwrle Branch, died after a short illness. Oliver is best remembered as a conductor of community singing at Area and Regional festivals. The sympathy of the North Wales Area is also extended to his wife Lynne Gunning.

IWR

Olive Hepple, who died on 12 October, joined Broadwater (Worthing) Branch in 1958. For many of the years with us she was our Pilot, often giving us very helpful talks.

Her training as a nurse and cheerful nature were a great help to her neighbours; so too were her thoughts for her fellow Toc H members, in sending us birthday cards over a number of years.

We were happy to be able to recognise her fifty years in Toc H, just a few days before she died.

MAB

We give thanks for their lives.



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For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical Interfaith Centre, 10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL. Telephone: 01 986 2233.

(If writing, state name of paper, quoting 'ACC/87'.)

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W A N T E D

Belgian teacher (Toc H member) would like to receive disused or surplus school text books and syllabi on subjects like: English, History and Art. All levels welcome. Cost of packing and postage (printed paper rate please!) will be refunded. Delegated delivery by visitors to Talbot House, Poperinge most convenient.

Please send direct to:

Bertin Deneire
Wolnsachlaan 8
8970 Poperinge
Belgium
Tel: 057 33 63 98

Please contact Bertin with details of any available literature.

Small Ads

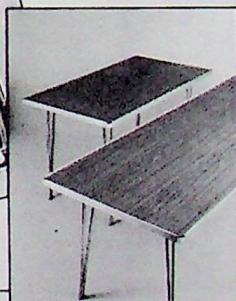
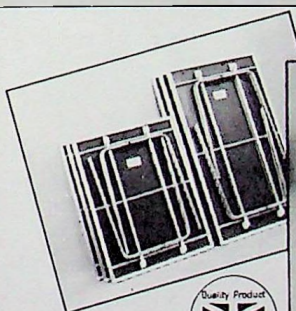
Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

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Postcode TOC

From the Centres

Lindridge House

Whether you currently know us well, a little, or not at all you will be equally welcome to join us at Lindridge House, Kingsteignton, for any of the events outlined below.

We aim to gather an interesting mixture of up to a dozen people for events here. During the event, the group lives and works together, sharing both the activities and the running of the house with us as an extended family.

Other events run at Lindridge House during the year. Please contact us if you are interested in booking the house for an event of your own or if you'd like to discuss starting anything up with our help.

26 – 28 February 1988

Disability Workshop:

A chance to begin to understand some of the challenges faced by people who have a physical handicap. The group will run the house and try out a number of exercises with a range of self-imposed disabilities.

Cost: £14 including £5 deposit.

8 – 10 April 1988

Life in a Small Group:

How do we behave in the various small groups we live and work in? What goes on and why? During this weekend we shall tackle a variety of tasks as a group and then discuss frankly but sensitively the ways in which the group operates.

Cost: £16 including £5 deposit.

22 – 24 April 1988

Poetry and Art Weekend:

A chance to explore your surroundings and yourself using writing, painting and drawing. Sessions led by Marian Liemann (author of *'Art Therapy for Groups'*, pub. by Croom Helm, 1986) and Philip Gross (latest poetry, *'Cat's Whisker'*, pub. Faber, 1987). No expertise needed.

Cost: £20 including £10 deposit.

You can book your place by sending the appropriate deposit for the event to:

Jane and Philip Douch
Lindridge House
Lindridge Hill
Kingsteignton
Newton Abbot
Devon TQ12 3QE

Tel: 0626 (Newton Abbot) 65670

Cuddesdon House

Colin, Anne, Liz, Nancy and Alan wish a **Happy Christmas** and a **Peaceful and Prosperous 1988** to all their friends.

Huddersfield Festival and Concert

27 August 1988

The Huddersfield District, in conjunction with the North Eastern Region and Headquarters, are organising a Festival and Concert for late summer, 1988. The day is planned to incorporate a church service in the afternoon at Huddersfield Parish Church after which refreshments will be served. Then in the evening a concert will be held in the Town Hall, Huddersfield, featuring the Brighouse and Rastrick Brass Band and a leading male voice choir. Other exciting events are planned for this day, so enter the date in your new diaries as a date not to be missed. Further details will be published later.

The Four Point Challenge

The Four Point Challenge team offer their apologies to Branches expecting 'Actual monies raised' forms. As you will have read in November Point Three, the event was completed and was a success. Any sponsorship money or donations should be sent in as soon as possible.

Please send all cheques direct to:

Toc H HQ
1 Forest Close
Wendover
Aylesbury
Bucks HP22 6BT

Cheques to be made payable to 'Toc H', but marked for The Four Point Challenge.

Colsterdale

Family Weekend

1 – 3 April 1988

An experimental weekend for young families who find that family commitments prevent them being involved in Toc H activities.

For both parents and children, the weekend will offer the opportunity of a short Easter break in the Yorkshire Dales. Creche facilities will allow group exploration of how to combine a young family with Toc H involvement.

Subsidised cost: £20.00 per family.

Contact:

John Dunwell
Development Officer
The Toc H Centre
Colsterdale
Masham, Ripon
North Yorks HG4 4NN

Port Penrhyn Activities Centre

To coincide with the 25th birthday of Toc H projects, the 'East Wing' is being adapted to form a small self-contained unit, for use by up to 12 people. It consists of one large carpeted room with movable partitions (funded by the 'Friends of Port Penrhyn') for separate sleeping, eating and living arrangements. There is also a fully equipped separate kitchen, toilets and showers. The cost for the accommodation will be £1 per person per night, and will be available in the New Year.

In addition, funding is being sought to enable Toc H groups to bring their projects to the Centre itself in 1988. Accommodation will be free of charge but all other costs will have to be found by the group itself. The Management Committee hope that the Centre and the East Wing will be used exclusively by Toc H projects during 1988.

Please apply to:

Brenda Gould
Activities Centre
Port Penrhyn
Bangor
Gwynedd LL57 4HN
Tel: 0248 (Bangor) 351906